



# SANTA & COLE

## **New 09 Outdoor developments**

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Parc de Belloch  
Ctra. C-251 Km 5,6  
E-08430 La Roca, Barcelona  
Espanya / Spain  
tel. +34 938 462 437  
fax +34 938 711 767  
[www.santacole.com](http://www.santacole.com)

### **October 2009. First prize Crea! Mater 09**

Prize awarded by Mater, the center of materials of the FAD, for the development of a new material (Recycled polypropylene with 30% fibreglass) applied to the structure with an injection arm of the NeoRomantico Sustainable bench.

### **The NeoRomantico Sustainable bench, the new generation of the family**

In 1995 Miguel Milá designed the NeoRomantico bench, now a classic of urban furniture which forms part of the collective imagination shared by the majority of European cities.

In 2009 Santa & Cole presents the NeoRomantico Sustainable bench, a revision of this icon of the European public space: a special blend of polymers with 50% recycled plant fibres for the slats, and recycled polymers with 30% fibreglass for its structure.

The incorporation of polymers into the manufacture of urban benches offers, among others, the following advantages: great rain and sun resistance, it does not need maintenance and moreover it allows the whole element to be coloured en masse and to be personalized depending on the location. The improvements in the manufacturing processes and recycling of plastics in recent years have made it possible to reuse a large amount of waste materials, which until recently presented a problem. At present, plastic is changing category as a reusable material and within a few years it will be one of the most commonly employed materials, used with environmental criteria and fulfilling the strictest certifications both of processes and of the life cycle of the elements which incorporate it.

The fundamental change thus lies in the materials used. Thus, the structure and the length of the average bench have also varied somewhat, entailing a subtle aesthetic renewal without changing the ergonomic profile which has been received so well and has so many supporters.

Santa & Cole is environmentally involved in improving the life cycle of urban elements, using recycled and recyclable materials for this new version of the the NeoRomantico bench, more resistant to corrosion, ageing and extreme uses. An element of street furniture is thus born which is committed to the environment and attentive to the new technologies and trends of the urban space.

### **Its origins**

Fourteen years ago, Miguel Milá designed the the NeoRomantico de pata Clásica bench, created as an alternative to the classical bench with slats of painted wood and a cast iron structure. For the first time, instead of iron, aluminium casting was used, this material being lighter and more corrosion resistant, recyclable and recycled, and tropical wood with a high hardness, which did not need treatments or special maintenance.

Five years later and due to the needs indicated by the market, an arm was added to the structure. The municipalities were asking for elements more adapted to their users, with a seat height of 45 centimetres and arms to help the elderly to use them. This request led to the design of the pata Liviana, the name of which indicates that it is much lighter but with the same resistance.

In 2002 the anodized aluminium extrusion slats were introduced, a new concept of seat with a very resistant material, unalterable in extreme meteorological conditions, which remains at the ambient temperature due to the high conductivity of the aluminium. The aluminium slats can have a length of up to 6 metres, with a continuous section without defects or changes of colour or surface texture. The possibility of selling the benches dismantled represents a considerable saving in packing and volume on transporting them and responds to a crucial commitment to a sustainable future.

Two years later, Santa & Cole obtained FSC certification from SmartWood (FSC – SECR – 0013) for all the benches from the urban elements catalogue. All Santa & Cole benches thus began to use certified wood, from “well managed” woods which comply with strict environmental and socioeconomic standards in accordance with the principles and criteria of the world Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). Santa & Cole is thus one more link which certifies the chain of custody of the wood from its origin to the end user.

Finally, in 2006 it was decided to create the Liviana structure in aluminium injection, which represents using less quantity of aluminium and reducing the manufacturing time. In addition, a new finish was introduced to the painted structure with a RILSAN plastic coating, of great resistance and durability, which protects and colours the legs of the benches in a single process.

### **Miguel Milá, a master of design**

Miguel Milá has played a fundamental role in the history of modern design. His work has been based on updating tradition. Several of his works have outlived the circumstances in which they were produced and still maintain their validity today, “thanks to having been born at a time when rigour and honesty were appreciated”, states Milá.

In 1987 he was rewarded with the first National Design Award and in 2008 he received the Compasso d’Oro in recognition of his career history and his contribution to spreading Spanish design abroad.

### **Santa & Cole’s Urban Division**

In Santa & Cole we have been developing our Urban Division for more than twenty years, working on the design of urban elements which allow better, more human and social spaces to be created, elements with better experience of use and maintenance, in which light, water, rest, safety and information find a reasonable and accessible space.

The urban space is a place of exchange and interrelations in which elements of street furniture which encourage the citizen to make better use of them are essential. There is no metaphor more graphic than the invitation from a bench to sit down.

Urban elements make up the vital image of a city, playing a role of representation and of a collective emblem. Therein lies our Urban Division’s mission: to decorate the city, to design engaged urban elements, in the service of coexistence, which contribute to giving the urban public space a collective meaning.